



NORTH news



The Government Standard

One Vision: A New North Glasgow - a great place to live, learn, work, visit and invest.

ISSUE 46

Bessie is 102 Years Young!

Possilpark tenant Bessie Gallacher recently celebrated her 102nd birthday and Housing Officer Danielle Quinn paid her a visit along with Assistant Director of Housing Operations Lynne Cooper and Chairperson of ng homes John Fury.

The association presented Bessie with a bouquet of Spring flowers, some shopping vouchers and her favourite sweets – maltesers.

Bessie's mum was the first tenant in the property when they were built in the 1930s and Bessie has lived at her home since she was a child with her parents whom she took over the tenancy from in 1973.

She left school at 14 and was sent off to Dumfries during the war as she was a single female. On her return Bessie started working in Woolworths where she stayed for 34 years.

With her sister Violet they used to love going to the dancing and Bessie said: "My sister Violet and I loved the dancing and we used to go to the Imperial in the West End of Glasgow."

Bessie met a soldier who asked her to go to England with him but she couldn't at the time as her mum was unwell.

She had 4 sisters and 1 brother who she was very close too – her only living relatives now are her niece Anne and her sister Flo who is 100!".

Chairperson John Fury said: "It was a pleasure to meet Bessie



l-r - Chairperson John Fury, Mary Filay, Bessie Gallacher, Bridget Stewart, Housing Officer Danielle Quinn and Asst Director of Housing Operations Lynne Cooper



Bessie (centre) with her neighbours Mary Filay (left) and Bridget Stewart (right)

and help her celebrate her 102nd birthday, she is a great example to us all."

Lynne Cooper, Assistant Director of Housing Operations said: "Bessie is an inspiration and so too are her neighbours who are there for her when she needs help."

If you know an ng homes tenant about to celebrate a special birthday like Bessie why not let your Housing Officer know.



Bessie as a baby with her mum and dad



Bessie as a young woman



Bessie as a toddler

HAPPY HEALTHY HEARTS PROGRAMME

ng homes has teamed up with the NHS, AXIS Health Hubs and Active Schools to produce a unique health and fitness pilot project for P6 and P7 pupils in Saracen Primary School in the north of Glasgow.

This innovative programme has been designed to match the experiences and outcomes within the Health and Wellbeing and Science areas of Curriculum for Excellence and is compliant with the Health Promoting Schools Scotland Act 2007. It aims to encourage, support and help sustain the children and their families in making healthy lifestyle choices, focussing on exercise and diet.

The ten-week course ran from January to March, with the physical and sporting aspects of the programme taking place on 2 days each week. Over the course of the programme the children were exposed to 14 different indoor and outdoor activities, conducted by fully qualified, specialist staff. The variety of activities caters for all pupils, including those with additional support needs and pupils who are normally reluctant to engage in physical activity.

The careful planning of the project was undertaken by teaching staff in consultation with those partners identified above and throughout the programme those partners met regularly to evaluate and amend the programme where necessary. Initial benchmark data was collected and will serve as a useful tool in measuring progress upon completion of the programme.

The involvement of parents and carers was a crucial component of the programme so that lessons learned in school could be reinforced at home and to that end a 6 week healthy cooking course for parents was implemented. Not only did this encourage parents and carers to come together in a social setting, while learning how to cook simple, affordable and healthy meals, but the pupils worked alongside them, learning important skills and finally sharing a dining experience together.



Robert Docherty & Evelyn Gibson

Continued on p2 >



Residents at the Tigers Den P7



Pitstops Can Help You P9



Trainees Making Progress P12

Comments, Compliments & Complaints

ng homes recognise that from time to time some things can go wrong and our aim is to rectify matters and improve our service.

Our Complaints Handling Procedure was developed by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman in partnership with the housing sector.

A copy of a guide to our complaints procedure is available at our offices or you can phone us and ask us to send you one out.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

If you would like to make a complaint you can do so in the following ways:

Email: Complaints@nghomes.net

Telephone: 0141 560 6000

Online: www.nghomes.net

Post/Visit:

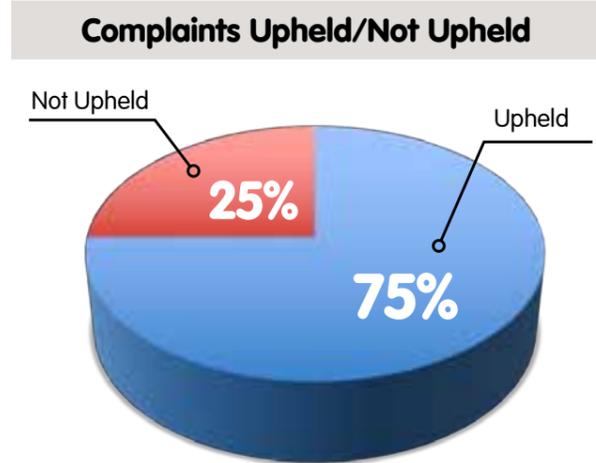
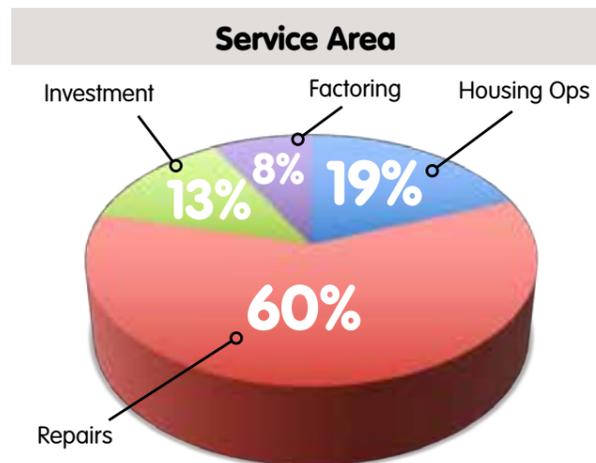
Ned Donaldson House, 50 Reidhouse Street, Springburn, Glasgow, G21 4LS
Saracen House, 139 Saracen Street, Possilpark, Glasgow, G22 5AZ

A number of compliments and tokens of appreciation were also received during this period with customers thanking us for help with:

- Thanks for help moving to sheltered housing
- Thanks for quick response in dealing with complaint
- Thanks for good customer service
- Thanks to Hit Squad for cleaning out the bin area

Complaints Oct-Dec 2015

Number of complaints responded to = 73 during the period.



96% of complaints were responded to within our target timescales.



Happy Healthy Hearts Programme

Continued from p1

Midway through the programme all the indications are that it has exceeded the expectations of all those involved.. In particular, the response from classroom teachers and pupils has been excellent with reports that all the children have become engaged with the activities and have made real progress in terms of their physical activity profile, with additional improvements being evident in attendance, punctuality, involvement in after school clubs and in motivation.

The pupils continue to make small but significant changes to their diet. Each pupil logs their progress on a daily basis, using an 'Active Choices Diary'.

Enthusiasm for the programme has extended beyond the 2 classes directly involved and encompasses the entire school population. Being twinned with a Jamaican Primary School has enabled this, with all classes engaging in daily walking, skipping or running activities, recording the distances they cover to match the distance from Scotland to Jamaica. This "Jog To Jamaica" component of the programme has heightened the competitive nature of staff as well as pupils.

The knowledge gathered by the pupils has resulted in them persuading Evelyn Gibson, head teacher, to make some changes to the school policies on Drinks and on Footwear. P7 pupils are now working with the head teacher to implement change in light of their newfound knowledge.

Dominic Henry and Karen Kinghorn, the class teachers, have fully embraced the project and are challenging their pupils every day to make better choices.

We recently celebrated the outstanding success of the Saracen Primary P7 netball team at a recent interschool competition, when the children won 13 of their 14 matches. More recently Primary 7 were involved in the inter-school athletics programme at the Emirates Arena and once again did very well there.

All partners in the programme are now

"I am so proud of the way my entire staff has embraced this Happy, Healthy Hearts project"

very confident that an effective model is being developed which could be replicated in other schools within the north of the city.

Evelyn Gibson, who monitors the progress of the programme closely, said, "I am so proud of the way my entire staff has embraced this Happy, Healthy Hearts project and the benefits to the pupils are evident and measurable. Working in partnership with dedicated and committed sports and health professionals has made a significant difference to the overall provision of the programme, including the crucial parental component. The increased levels of confidence among the children, has led to them implementing policy change within the school. I feel this has been a fine example of raising attainment through sport and we hope that this will result in a lasting legacy of healthy lifestyle options".

Chairperson of ng homes John Fury said: "We are delighted with the progress of the Happy Healthy Hearts programme. Encouraging children at a young age to keep active and make the right choices about their diet and fitness will stand them in good stead as they get older. "It's also very encouraging that parents and carers are also involved in the project and support the whole approach around Active and Healthy families in the household. Robert Docherty, Football Development Partnership Manager for ng homes added: "The project has been a huge success and we hope that all those involved will continue to adopt a healthier lifestyle going forward. The pupils and parents, staff and partners have all played their part in the success of the project. We are also very grateful for the support and expertise that Evelyn Gibson and Simon Farrelly provided."

Sudoku easy

Our readers are having lots of fun with our brain teasing sudoku games. The game is played on a nine by nine grid that is sub-divided into 3x3 grids. Some of the squares already have some numbers. The idea is to fill all the squares with numbers 1 to 9 so that each number only appears once in each column and each row and also in each of the sub-divisions.

			9	6	2		4	
	7	4		3				2
					8	5		
	4	2			3			1
			8	1	9			
9			7			8	3	
		6	5					
4				9		1	7	
	9		3	4	1			

Sudoku medium

8	5					4		
	4	3				7	1	
			4				6	
		1		6	9		3	
9			5		7			4
	3		1	2		9		
	8				1			
	9	7				2	5	
		5					4	8



Housing Officer Terri McChesney with one of last year's prize winners from Springburn, Mrs McDonald.



Garden Competition 2016

Calling all gardeners... it's time to pick up your entry form for this year's ng homes garden competition.

We've regularly rewarded those with green fingers who keep their garden looking good for not only their enjoyment but also to enhance their local community.

Best Garden prizes will be awarded in four areas - Springburn, Balornock, Parkhouse and Possilpark.

There is £50 in gift vouchers for the winner in each area plus four second prizes of £30 vouchers and four third place vouchers valued at £20 each.

Forms can be picked up at our offices at Ned Donaldson House in Springburn and Saracen House in Possilpark.

Completed forms should be returned by Friday 24th June 2016.

Only one application per communal garden will be accepted.

Our photographers will take pictures of competitors' gardens in July and August with the judging panel meeting in mid-August. Their decision is final!

The winners will be presented with their prizes in their homes by their Housing Officer and will also be featured in a future edition of North News.

The first step is to pick up a form, complete it and return it to our office in either Springburn or Possilpark. **Good luck!**

Cook Safe Sessions at Sheltered Housing Complexes

Sparcs in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been delivering Cooksafe sessions in all of ng homes' Sheltered Housing Complexes.

Funded by ng homes, the sessions are aimed at teaching residents to cook more safely and a little more healthily. As well as listening to serious home and fire safety advice, residents also enjoyed a two course lunch and some good chat!

Michelle Harrity from Safer Communities Division, Edinburgh also attended one of Cooksafe sessions at Kemp Street Sheltered Housing in Springburn and said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with ng homes to deliver important messages to their elderly residents around cooking safely and eating more healthily and it was great to meet all the residents."



In the next few months SFRS and Sparcs will also be delivering another 10 Cook Safe Sessions in the north east of the city, where there has been a slight increase in kitchen fires. A Cook Safe course will also be delivered to more vulnerable tenants including those living with dementia.

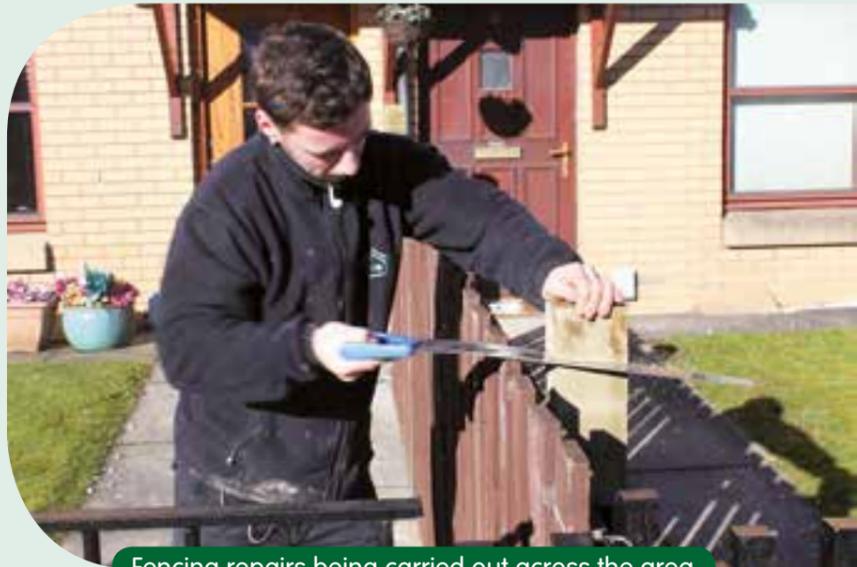
As part of a partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), Fiona Herriot is working alongside ng homes Housing and Regeneration teams supporting important community safety events and activities linking into SFRS, ng homes and other partner agencies and local communities.

Sheltered Housing Manager Karen Johnson said: "The residents thoroughly enjoyed the Cook Safe Demonstrations and some of them are already putting into practice what they learned from the sessions to make their homes even safer."

ng2

Making a Difference

Environmental Hit Squads carry out a lot of work across North Glasgow and in each North News we will feature some of the areas that have been improved as a result of their efforts. As you can see from the "before and after" photographs they are certainly making a difference.



Fencing repairs being carried out across the area



Estate Operatives Clean over 400 closes every week



Electrical Work is ongoing

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



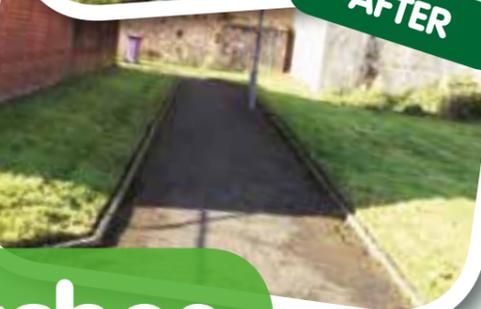
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Isolator Switches

Why Every Home Should Have One

Before any electrical work can be carried out on your home your electricity supply should be isolated to allow the contractor to safely work on the electrics within your property and it is a legal requirement for an isolator switch to be installed.

Having an isolator switch minimises disruption to your everyday routine as your electrician only

has to flick a switch and lock off the electricity to ensure their safety – and get on with the job there and then. This also cuts out the need for extra visits to your property by your energy provider to remove and replace the cut-out fuse.

ng2 install the isolator switches and so far they have completed over 800 installations at properties across North Glasgow. Estate Services Supervisor at ng2 David McIntyre said: "It's

important that tenants provide our electricians with access to their homes so isolator switches can be installed. The job takes less than an hour to complete and ensures our tenants and contractors safety when electrical work is being carried out."

For more information or if you have missed your appointment with ng2 electricians. Please contact 0141 560 6000.





The latest group of people to get activated in North Glasgow are pictured here with MSP for Maryhill and Springburn Patricia Ferguson, Glasgow City Councillor Allan Stewart and University of Glasgow Lecturer Helen Martin

NORTH GLASGOW PEOPLE REALISE POTENTIAL ON ACTIVATE COURSE

A FURTHER 26 local people received certificates in the 'Activate' community development programme supported by ng homes and delivered by tutors from Glasgow University

At a recent award ceremony held at the University certificates were presented by ng homes Board Member Cllr Allan Stewart and MSP for Maryhill and Springburn Patricia Ferguson who recognised the impact the Activate course has had on participants with a Scottish Parliamentary Motion. Professor Trevor Gale, Head of Glasgow University's School of Education spoke to students of the impact of Activate on individuals and the community saying: "There are many ways to change the world, Activate is one of them".

'Activate' is a community-based introduction to community development taking place over a period of 10 weeks for 3 hours per week at local venues. It strengthens local networks and people attending get a chance to listen to each other and see different ways of working together.

In particular, having a group where there is a mixture of ages, ethnic backgrounds and work or voluntary experiences enables participants to think more deeply about the work they are doing and challenge their own views and the views of others. The areas covered by the course include the values and principles of community development, anti-discriminatory practice, power and participation, local and global links, group work, learning for change and monitoring and evaluation.

Those who participated and completed the most recent courses included ng homes' tenants, people from the Asylum Seeker Refugee programme, ng homes Board members and staff and members of community and public organisations including Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. Chairperson of Social Enterprise ng2 Margaret Thomson said: "It's a great course with great tutors, it really makes you think about things in a different way and with people of all ages and backgrounds sharing their opinions. It's a wonderful experience and I would highly recommend it".

ng homes tenant, Caroline Allison, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed the Activate course and I was delighted to meet so many enthusiastic people from our community. It's a great course and I would encourage people to do it. You learn so much, not only from the excellent tutors but also from your fellow students."

Regeneration Manager for ng homes Margaret Layden said: "We are committed to working with the University of Glasgow in developing community activists through this programme and we congratulate the latest participants on completing the Activate course."

Helen Martin, Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow said: "Activate also provides access to further and higher education and students who have completed it often move on to study at College or University. People progress into other areas of voluntary experience, further education or

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Activate course and I was delighted to meet so many enthusiastic people from our community"

work. More than 1,000 people have been through the programme so far since it began 11 years ago!"

ng homes also won an award for its work on Activate last year from the Chartered Institute of Housing (Scotland) in the category 'Excellence in developing skills and capacity'.

Activate is open to anyone over 16 years of age and there is no upper age limit. Those that take part will learn about community work and local/global issues through discussion and group work. Preparations are ongoing for an Activate course due to start soon and anyone interested should contact Margaret Layden, Regeneration Manager on 0141 560 6000 or email mycommunity@nghomes.net

Chinese New Year Celebrations



David Lu and guests at Glasgow City Chambers

Chinese New Year was celebrated in a number of ways this year in Glasgow with ng homes supporting events in George Square and the SeeWoo Restaurant as well as hosting an event at Saracen House.

At Saracen House activities included Lion dance performances, traditional Scottish music and dancing, Er Hu Chinese music and a magic mind show. Singer Ms Jin also performed a Chinese popular song called "Legend".

Children (and adults) were excited to see Chairperson John Fury dress in a traditional Money God costume and present them with Red Envelopes to bring them good fortune.

One local tenant said: **"What a meaningful event to let my children get in touch with the Chinese Festival when we are thousands of miles from my home in China."**

Chairperson of ng homes John Fury who was born in the year of the Monkey said: **"There have been a lot of Chinese New Year Celebrations in Glasgow and I am delighted our event here in Possilpark has been a great success. Its great to see both Scottish and Chinese tenants celebrating their culture and traditions."**

Chinese Tenant Mrs Wang Qiao Yun from Possilpark who was born in the year of the Pig said: **"Its brilliant that we can celebrate Chinese New Year here in North Glasgow with Chinese families living in the community, I thoroughly enjoyed the day."**

The Saracen House event followed hot on the heels of an event for Senior Citizens which was attended by 300 people at the Seewoo restaurant, also in Possilpark. Over 80 ng homes residents attended the free event and enjoyed several courses of Chinese food followed by traditional Chinese entertainment. There was also a performance by members of the Red Road Alive and Kicking project and a piper from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Junior Pipe Band also performed some traditional Scottish music.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow also welcomed participants to the City Chambers and enjoyed traditional Lion dance performances and Chinese entertainment in George Square

Regeneration Manager for ng homes Margaret Layden said: **"There are currently more than 70 Chinese families living in ng homes properties. Following on from previous successful events we were once again delighted to celebrate Chinese New Year with its popular themes of good fortune, happiness, wealth and "longevity".**

It is the second time that ng homes has hosted the event and this year they worked in partnership with the Confederation of Fujian Association in Scotland. It was attended by more than 180 people including performers, staff, residents and specially invited guests mostly from Springburn, Possilpark and surrounding areas.

Familiar faces at many of the Chinese New Year celebrations this year were Mr Andy Chung



Chairperson John Fury (centre) as the Money God in traditional Chinese costume pictured with David Lu, Chairperson of the Fujian Foundation UK Scotland, Andy Chung and performers

(Honourable Chairman of Confederation of Chinese Association) and Mr David Lu, Chairman of the Confederation of Fujian Association in Scotland who said: **"We were delighted to celebrate Chinese New year at many events in Glasgow with the support of ng homes and I would like to thank everyone in the community that helped make the events a great success."**

Those invited along to share in the celebration included volunteers of all ages who are involved in various programmes in the community.

Celia Tennant, a Member of Building Safer Communities attended the event and said: **"I loved it, it is great to have an insight into the Chinese New Year celebration. Thanks for inviting us"**

Chief Inspector Joe McKerns the local Area Commander Police Scotland said: **"I thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations and was delighted to receive an invitation from ng homes. It provided me with an opportunity to meet and speak to many members of our Chinese community. The event was a great success and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did"**

The traditional lion dance and the entertaining programmes including magic show, musical instrument play and singing are so fascinating that everybody enjoyed a pleasant afternoon.

The Saracen House event was part of the Build, Bridge, Bond programme supported by the Scottish Government's People and Communities Fund. Also supporting the events were Ricefields, Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, Accordionist John Carmichael, ng homes Regeneration and Housing Teams and Volunteers from the local community.



ng homes receive a traditional Chinese gift from Andy Chung and David Lu



Family atmosphere



Older citizens were catered for at an event at Seewoo Restaurant



Lion Dance Performances were well received by all those in attendance.





The Den Diner is packed for the monthly event.



Tigers owners Gerry and Michael Facenna of Allied Vehicles welcome ng homes residents to the Den Diner.

Tiger's Den Diner the Place to Be for North Glasgow Residents

A NEW addition to the list of places to visit in North Glasgow is proving popular with customers of ng homes as they meet regularly at the Tiger's Den Diner for an evening of entertainment with a hot meal included.

Over 60 residents meet at the home of the Glasgow Tigers whose walls are adorned with speedway memorabilia from through the years. The events form part of ng homes regeneration activities and help to combat social isolation in the North of the city.

Margaret Layden, Regeneration Manager for ng homes said: "We are delighted to be working with Glasgow Tigers in the community to offer our residents the opportunity to get out, along with their neighbours, make new friends and enjoy themselves at the Tiger's Den Diner which is such a versatile space."

Local resident Harriet Elsby, 89, from Springburn said: "I used to love the speedway and I would go and watch the Glasgow Tigers years ago. It's brilliant to be able to come to the Den Diner now, relive old memories and meet new friends. I'll be

roaring the tigers on when the new season starts!"

Board Member for ng homes Bill Rossine also regularly attends the events and he said: "It's a really entertaining evening and a great opportunity for our customers to meet new people, enjoy good food and support a local team like the Glasgow Tigers."

The Speedway season runs from April to October every Sunday at 3pm, and offers an exhilarating afternoon of sport in a friendly, family environment. If you've never been to speedway, now would be a great time to try it and visit the Tiger's Den Diner for refreshments while you're there.

The Tiger's Den Diner is open seven days a week, from 6.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 8.00pm Saturday & Sunday although the restaurant closes two hours before tapes-up on race days.

With a range of hot and cold food on offer, including both Scottish and international cuisine, there's something to suit every taste and sit-in or take-away options are available.

Manager of the Tiger's Den Diner, Maureen Foy said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with ng homes and we look forward to welcoming their tenants and residents to these regular events at the Den Diner."

Glasgow Tigers next home match is a glamorous pre-season friendly against Coventry Bees on Sunday 27th March 2016 at the Peugeot Ashfield Stadium and tickets are available online now: <http://www.glasgowtigers.co/product/glasgow-tigers-v-coventry-bees/>

For more information on events at the Tiger's Den Diner including function hire please visit:

<http://www.glasgowtigers.co/tigers-den/#sthash.CQ9rZb9Y.dpuf>

Residents interested in attending the Tiger's



Secretary Bill Rossine gets on his bike with Carron residents, fellow Board member John Thorburn and Regeneration Manager Margaret Layden



Local resident Harriet Elsby, 89, from Springburn with her daughter Eleanor

Den Diner events run by ng homes should contact Margaret Layden, Regeneration Manager on 0141 560 6000 or email mycommunity@nghomes.net



Springburn resident Ina Dobbie with the Tigers Mascot Roary!

EPIC 360 help with financial advice



Since January 2016, Epic 360 have helped **80 customers to open bank accounts, credit union accounts, increased bank account knowledge or change to a more appropriate account. Our service is free and open to Glasgow residents.**

Universal credit arrived and has rolled out across Glasgow. How will this affect you? Epic 360 has improved the Universal credit knowledge of 104 people in Glasgow this year.

Epic 360 has helped 89 customers increase budgeting skills and knowledge through the use of budgeting tools and apps for phones, analysing your budget and increasing your income.

Could writing a message list help you reduce your spend? Do you regularly throw out food because it's out of date? Our customers have changed their shopping habits and reduced costs and waste.

Epic 360 have conversations around Budgeting, Income & Spending, Borrowing & Saving, Debt & Wellbeing, Welfare reform & Universal Credit. 18 customers have increased their knowledge and understanding of affordable credit, recognising high cost credit providers, changing to more affordable credit. The table below gives some costs of typical high street credit providers.



Janine Bonner and Susan McAllister of Epic 360

	Borrow/Cost	Cost of Credit (typical)	Weekly Payments	Number of Weeks	Additional Cost of Borrowing
Credit Union	£ 500	£602	£11.57	52	£102
Provident Financial	£500	£910	£17.50	52	£410
BrightHouse	£588.75	£1170	£7.50	156	£581.25

If you would like more information please speak to your housing officer or check us out at www.epic360.co.uk. Our service is free and confidential.

“ This service has helped me to get the right help. I didn't know where to go for help with benefits and was scared to ask for help. I now feel more confident going to these services and talking about my finances ”
Sarah, Sept 2015



“ I have had financial meetings with Angie from EPIC 360. These meetings have been beneficial as I feel I have gained confidence in my own ability to manage my finances. I would recommend this service. ”
Megan

Owners Forum Now Established

Our Owners Forum have now had 2 meetings, the first meeting was held in December last year to establish the forum and at second meeting last month owners attending identified issues that ng property services will look into further.

Allocations and Anti-social behaviour will be on the agenda for the next meeting and Caroline Wilson, ng property Manager said: “The Owners Forum is an opportunity for owners to make suggestions on how we can continually improve our services and find out more about the work of ng homes.”

If you are a homeowner and a customer of ng property and wish to find out more about the Owners Forum please contact Caroline Wilson – cwilson@nghomes.net – 0141 336 1312 Karen Hudson – khudson@nghomes.net – 0141 630 4326



Eastfield Park Update

In the last issue of North News we asked for your views and suggestions on types of activities and improvements to be developed to bring the park back into wider community use.

We were delighted by your response and we have several people interested in helping shape proposals to bring the park back into use.

We are still recruiting if anyone is interested in becoming involved in the planning of events or becoming

a member of 'Friends of Eastfield Park'.

Our next event will take place on **Wednesday 13th April – 11am–3pm**. It's a family event so please do come along and enjoy the free activities.

If you would like to find out more or sign up to become a 'Friend of Eastfield Park' then contact Margaret Layden at mlayden@nghomes.net or 0141 560 6000.

Are you an adult male and currently out of work? Pitstops can help!



The Pitstops project is currently recruiting unemployed males for their forthcoming rugby-based personal development course, starting early May 2016 for eight weeks.

In the last edition of the North News, we made you aware of the new Big Lottery funded partnership project between ng homes and School of Hard Knocks, called Pitstops.

The project runs 8-week personal development courses for those who feel they require support or advice to take positive steps forward in their lives. During the course, participants learn a new contact sport, get qualifications, take part in a number of fun activities, and get support to take steps towards finding paid or voluntary work, go to college, or other positive destinations.

Pitstops will be running male and female courses over the next three years in north

Glasgow. The first Pitstops course is targeted at unemployed males, and will run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's for eight weeks from the start of May 2016. The course will include rugby coaching, fitness training and personal development and employability support.

The course uses learning from recent School of Hard Knocks and ng homes courses run in the area, which have helped support a number of people to gain qualifications, find work, go to college, start volunteering and get fit.

Andy Meharry took part in the first rugby course in north Glasgow back in 2013. He has been in work ever since and has given a great deal of his time back to support new courses.

'Taking part was life changing for me. I got back into work, made friends for life and have been involved with (the charity) for years now. If you're unemployed and looking to change your life – sign up, you won't regret it.'

Possilpark resident, Paul Richardson, took part in the local course last summer. After finishing the course, Paul gained a ground maintenance position with ng2 – the subsidiary company of ng homes.

"Best decision I've made in a long time. The course helped me take back control of my life. I met some inspirational people and made great friends. I'm also now working for ng2."

Paul Richardson took part in the last course and has now found a full time job with ng2.



- Are you unemployed and looking for some support to take positive steps forward?
- Are you interested in learning a new sport, or just getting a bit fitter?

- Would you like to get some qualifications and enhance your CV?
- Would you like support with things that are stopping you taking positive steps forward in life?

If you answered yes to the above, Pitstops is the course for you!
For more information and an informal and friendly chat, please call Pitstops team on: 0141 630 4254

Improvements to Council recycling services

Glasgow City Council is making a number of improvements to recycling services across the city. These changes will increase the level of service offered to residents of kerbside properties, tenements and flats. The changes include advice on how to use recycling services throughout Glasgow, the range of materials that can be recycled and the introduction of food waste recycling.

The new food waste recycling service will be introduced to all flats and tenements from April 2016 onwards. Flats and tenements will be provided with a suitable outdoor container for food waste depending on the requirements of the property type. On the right are images of the different container types and their dimensions. Please note, dimensions are indicative and may vary slightly depending on the manufacturer.



500 Litre Food Waste Bin
Height: 1095mm
Width: 1290mm
Depth: 720mm



240 Litre Food Waste Bin
Height: 1080mm
Width: 580mm
Depth: 730mm



External Bin Housing
Height: 1298mm
Width: 720mm
Depth: 850mm

The 500 litre bin will predominantly be used at multi-storey properties and the 240 litre bin will be used for tenement backcourts.



The West of Scotland Girl's Judo Programme: 20 Weeks In

JudoScotland along with Active East, Youth Scotland and Scottish Sports Futures have successfully delivered the first 20 weeks of Scotland's first Girl's only Judo project. A task which could not have been completed without the hard work of local Glasgow Judo clubs.

The initial six month period of The West of Scotland Girl's Judo Programme has been received with great enthusiasm engaging 92 youngsters against an initial target of 72. The programme is designed to engage young females, a group at high risk of inactivity, through weekly judo sessions, which focus on physical movement similar to dance, introducing judo gradually to maximize buy in. Additionally at each weeks class the girls also take part in workshops to encourage a healthy lifestyle, covering subjects from internet safety to healthy cooking.

To incentivise weekly attendance, the girls were given a 'loyalty card', with 10 weeks attendance resulting in the girls receiving their Judo uniforms and JudoScotland membership. A staggering 48 girls have achieved their first judo grade with six from the pilot achieving their second.

The programme isn't just aimed at increasing participation in sport, it also aims to engage young female volunteers. The West of Scotland Girl's Judo

programme is currently working with 15 young leaders and has developed a pathway to support them through the process.

Stephen Somerville from JudoScotland said: "We have had a great first initial year with some fantastic response. JudoScotland are positive that we can use all the learning to create an even stronger programme going forward."

Kirsty Partridge, Programme Manager with Active East said: "This is such an exciting programme for girls to get involved in a cool sport which is combined with some essential youth work input. We are continually learning from the girls and young volunteers and coaches on how to ensure these sessions are as good as they can be".

Emma Reid, Development Manager, Scottish Sports Futures said: "Really positive partnership working has resulted in increased opportunities for young girls right across the city. There are some lessons to be learned about meaningful collaboration and we are excited to see where the next 2 years take us."

Rebecca Simpson, Youth Active Manager at Youth Scotland said: "It is great to be part of such an innovative and active partnership that is having a real impact on girls participation in Judo. The

combination of youth work and sport makes it accessible and a real option for all girls."

Although the first 20 week programme has come to an end, there is no sign of it slowing down, all clubs involved are looking to continue their sessions and local housing association, ng homes, are even looking to create a new club. The success of the four clubs has secured the development for a further two and a half years and has also led to the development of five more female participation judo initiatives throughout Scotland, with a target of 8 clubs by the end of year 3.

ng homes have been supporting the West of Scotland Girl's Only Judo Programme via their Sports Legacy Programme. John Fury, Chairperson of ng homes said: "We are delighted to be able to support the continued delivery of the local girls-only Judo Club. These sessions have provided further opportunities for young people in the North East of Glasgow to take up a new activity, learn new skills and make new friends."

If you would like to get involved in the Female Participation Judo Programme, please contact stephensomerville@judoscotland.com or call the JudoScotland Development Team on 0131 333 2981. Join in the conversation on Twitter with #JudoGirlsRock.

North East Youth Health Team now on Facebook

The North East Youth Health team provide information on a number of health related topics to young people and professionals.

They want to engage with young people living in North East Glasgow to help improve their health and wellbeing through providing useful information.

They have recently launched their Facebook page and they are encouraging young people to submit questions,

comments and concerns to the page. If you are a young person living in the area you can post suggestions for topics and ideas for posts on the new page.

Any suggestions for topics or improvements can also be sent to northeastyouth@ggc.scot.nhs.uk with "Facebook" in the subject line.

<https://www.facebook.com/North-East-Youth-Health-1505434866446531/> timeline



ng homes Achieves Investors in Young People Accreditation



ng homes has achieved the Investors in Young People

Accreditation, the only people management standard that focuses on an employer's recruitment and retention of young people.

This represents a true commitment to the training and development of young people and demonstrates ng homes is an employer of choice for young people.

Launched in July 2014, Investors in Young People originated through a key recommendation from the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, led by Sir Ian Wood.

The accreditation is offered to all businesses across Scotland and exists to recognise and support organisations across Scotland in the employment of young people.

Having now achieved the accreditation, ng homes is now eligible to use and display the Investors in Young People logo and plaque, and

enjoy its benefits.

Commenting on the award, Tony Sweeney, Head of Organisational Development at ng homes said: "We are delighted to receive this accreditation as it recognises our ongoing commitment and the excellent work that our staff and Management Board do in developing and supporting young people in the work place."

The Housing Association is managed by a voluntary Management Board and ng homes Chairperson John Fury said: "Its wonderful to be recognised by Investors in People for the commitment we show to young people who can bring so much to the association in terms of their enthusiasm, skills and knowledge."

Peter Russian, Chief Executive of Investors in People Scotland, said "This is a fantastic achievement for ng homes, and I and the whole IYP team would like to wholeheartedly congratulate them. The Investors in Young People framework not only recognises and supports organisations in the employment of young people,

but marks them out as an employer of choice. I envisage that many more organisations will wish to follow in the footsteps of ng homes and demonstrate their commitment to young people by working with the Investors in Young People framework."

He continued: "The benefits of recruiting and developing young people are countless. These include the creation of a talent pool for the future, new and increased skills in areas such as IT and social media, fresh eyes and mind-sets into business operations along with enthusiasm and unique talents."

The Investors in Young People framework responds to a need to bring young people into the workplace and the difference in recruitment, support, management and development that young people require.

For more information on Investors in Young People please visit www.investorsinyoungpeople.scot

Scotcash™
approachable finance

www.scotcash.net

Make your holiday memories last a lifetime, not your loan repayments!



If you're planning on getting away from it all, don't turn to expensive lenders, why not try Scotcash who are local and can provide more affordable loans to make your holiday even more relaxing.

We can now process initial applications online and over the phone, call our friendly staff on **0141 276 0525** or visit our website, www.scotcash.net for more information.

£500 over 52 weeks	Scotcash	Provident
Loan	£500.00	£500.00
Admin Fee	£30.00	-
Weekly Repayment	£12.85	£17.50
Number of Repayments	52	52
Total amount Repayable	£697.71	£910
APR	**108.2%	*272%
Total saving	£212.29	

* Loan featured on www.providentpersonalcredit.com at April 2015.
** Rates may vary (All loans subject to status, terms and conditions apply).
121.5% Scotcash Representative APR

Why are Scotcash loans affordable?

Our affordable credit is just that, affordable. The amount of interest you will pay compared to a home credit lender will be lower.

How flexible are you with repayments?

We collect payments direct from your bank account on a day of your choice. We can even let you take payment holidays, all we ask is that you let us know in advance.

What if I do not have a bank account?

We can usually help you to open one. Just explain that you don't have a bank account when you call and we will attend to this matter first with you.

For further details, please contact our main office: **55 High Street | Glasgow | G1 1LX | Tel: 0141 276 0525**



Funds Raised for Beatson Cancer Care

In December 2015, the staff across the ng Group continued our tradition of raising funds for a local good cause. Santa and his Elf visited all departments and collected funds which this year were donated to the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Once again the staff contributed generously and helped us to raise £355 for the Charity.

Sheltered Housing Support Officer Lochie McLean and Juliette Duff (Trainee) visited the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow at the end of January and presented the cheque to Karen Nugent, the Supporter Care Manager at the Beatson Centre.

The Beatson Cancer Charity were delighted to receive our donation and they have provided us with a letter of thanks and a certificate.

Proud of their achievements:
Trainees Joseph Amouzo, Iona
Wilson (Back), Tegan Shearer
and Juliette Duff (Front)



Trainees Making Great Progress

ng homes trainees have been making great progress since joining us last year and in the first of a series of updates we find out what each of them have been up to. We start with Juliette Duff, 19, who has been working in the Corporate Services team.

I began my traineeship with ng homes on the 1st of December 2014. I have been part of the Corporate Services team for over 15 months now and have gained valuable and transferable skills which I believe will assist me in my future career. I have worked as part of the Corporate services team which includes Organisational Development, Governance and Media.

Over the last few months I have been involved in a number of tasks such as updating staff training details into the CIPHR personnel database, obtaining feedback from staff on training courses they had attended and compiling relevant information for the Head of Organisational Development's reports to Committee. I found this useful as it made me more aware of all the training the housing association was offering to staff.

I have also assisted the Director of Corporate Services in a benchmarking exercise in which I had to look at different data source information, extract

relevant comparisons and produce a document detailing ng homes performance info against other organisations. This gave me an insight to other organisations in terms of their performance against our own.

The general administration of recruitment, flexi-time and staff holidays has given me the opportunity to contribute greatly to the administration side of HR and Organisational Development and develop my knowledge skills and experience in this area, which I really enjoy.

ng homes also granted me a day at Linstone Housing Association late in 2015 where I was able to observe how their HR department works. This was highly beneficial for my training and development as it allowed me to see and compare how another Housing Association operates.

Qualifications

Throughout the last 13 months I have successfully gained my CIH Level 2 as well

as passing my SVQ Level 3 in Business and Administration. I have also recently commenced an HR related qualification. This is a CIPD accredited Level 3 Diploma in Human Resource Practice in which ng homes have assisted me greatly by providing me with time during my working week to complete some of my tasks and written work relating to this qualification as well as granting me 50% funding towards the qualification.

My long term goal is to secure a job within Human Resources and believe all of the training and support I am receiving will assist me in my goal.

My additional training to date includes Minute Taking, SFHA Presentation Skills, HR Network, Working Safely, Health and Safety meetings, Training on the ng homes website, Joomla Training, Telephone Answering Skills and Dealing with Difficult Customers.

Juliette has recently achieved her long-term goal and secured a job within the Corporate Services team at Partick Housing Association which she will take up at the beginning of May and everyone at ng homes wishes her well in her career.

Customer Service Excellence



The Association completed our Customer Service Excellence (CSE) three year re-certification review at the end of 2015 and we have now received official confirmation that the Association continue to meet the CSE Standard and the Accreditation will be in place for another three years until December 2018.

The review took place over 1½ days on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December and the CSE Assessor, was looking specifically at Criterion 1 in detail whilst also taking a general overview of all other

elements of the CSE framework, so that re-certification could take place:

Criterion 1 covered Customer Insight, Customer Identification, Engagement and Consultation and Customer Satisfaction.

Other Criterion the association were assessed on included the culture of the organisation, its leadership, policy, staff professionalism and attitude. The quality of information and access to it was also assessed as was the range of information, services and co-operative working with other providers, partners and communities.

Following the assessment, the Assessor confirmed that the result was very positive and that in his view we are doing extremely well. The Assessor also advised that in his view we continue to meet the Standard very comfortably and that he has seen excellent progress over the last couple of years, highlighting a number of areas where we are achieving **'compliance plus'** and in his view are **"an exemplar of best practice"**.

The Assessor was very impressed by the commitment and dedication of all the staff and the Board members

that he met and he commented **"it is clear to see that all the staff are particularly customer focused and it is obvious that a culture of customer service is now embedded across the organisation."**

The review provided the opportunity to showcase the excellent work that was being done in all areas of the business and we were required to evidence this and show how we make a positive difference for our tenants, residents, other customers and the community in general.

Improvements to Telephone Service

We are always looking at ways to improve our service to customers and that's why we have recently changed the options menu that customers use when telephoning our offices.



When customers call they will hear a greeting and they will then be presented with 4 main options:-

- **Choose Option 1 if you wish to make a rent payment**
- **Choose Option 2 if you wish to discuss a repair.**
 - If it's a new repair press 1.
 - If it's an existing repair press 2.
- **Choose Option 3 if you are a homeowner.**

If you are not calling about any of the above you will be asked to hold the line until an operator is available to answer your call.

Café Ocho Support our Volunteers

Local residents Bob Moir and John Lennox visited Café Ocho recently along with Legacy Officer for ng homes Clare Bird to thank owner Natasha Myles for her support in providing a Boxing Day meal to elderly people within the community who would normally be on their own.

Natasha organised crowd funding for transport costs to help people attend the Boxing Day lunch. Bob Moir was one of those who attended the lunch and he was on hand for a sing song with his trusty accordion to provide some ad hoc entertainment. Transport was provided by a Volunteer bus driver from Community Central Halls.

Natasha said: "When I heard about the work ng homes do in the community for older residents and volunteers I wanted to help in some way and I felt that crowd funding on the web would generate some funds to transport people to community events".

Legacy Officer, Clare Bird, said: "We have a full programme aimed at breaking down isolation by bringing older people together and we have a number of volunteers to support these events. We couldn't provide all the different events and activities without their help and support and we were



delighted when Natasha contacted us and offered her help".

Café Ocho can be found on the banks of Speirs Wharf and the fully licensed venue offers a truly innovative menu and they are proud to offer only the freshest, organic, and daily delivered ingredients, with every dish being entirely home made.

Ocho
8 Speirs Wharf, Glasgow
0141 332 6229
E-mail: info@ochoglasgow.co.uk
Web: <http://ochoglasgow.co.uk/>
<https://www.instagram.com/ochoglasgow/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ocho/810830475696327>

Become a Member of ng homes – Apply Today



Did you know that if you are aged 16 or over and live in North of Glasgow you can pay £1 and join us as a member. We have an open membership policy and welcome membership applications from all sections of the local community.

We are especially keen to encourage the Association's tenants and service users to become members, along with people who live permanently in our tenants' households. Other local residents who are not tenants or service users can also apply for membership.

As a member of the Association you:

- will become a lifetime shareholder in the Association (but you will not receive any financial return on your £1 share)
- can vote at all annual or special general meetings, for example to elect the members of the Association's Management Board
- can stand for election to the Board yourself, or nominate other people who are members for election.

Everyone who applies to become a member must agree to support the Association's aims and objectives, which are:

- To provide high quality affordable homes and services
- To regenerate our local communities

Sending your application

You can request an application form from:

Aileen Whiteford,
ng homes, 50 Reidhouse St, Springburn, G21 4LS
E-mail: awhiteford@nghomes.net
Tel: 0141 560 6000

Please note that we only accept applications from individuals. We will not accept bulk applications from organised groups. Remember to fill in our equal opportunities form too, and return this with your membership application.

Approval of membership applications

The Association's Board decides whether to approve or reject membership applications. If your application is approved:

- You will become a member and your name will be entered in the Register of Members.
- We will send you a copy of our Rules and your Membership Certificate.

Possibilities Could Have a New Fitness Facility with your Help!

Possibilities (formerly the Disability Community) are halfway through completion of a business plan which could see them add a small, specialist gym that would be designed for everyone in the community and meet the particular needs of frail, older and disabled people.

Manager for Possibilities Melanie Fyfe said: "The facility will benefit from equipment designed to meet the particular needs of frail, older and disabled people, using pneumatic

technology that makes equipment easier to use. It will include machines designed specifically for wheelchair users. Specialist staff would provide users with any support they may need."

Melanie added: "If we are successful with our plans everyone in the community will benefit. People may want take occasional light exercise or want to speed up their recovery from sports injuries and a specialised gym will help our members and the wider community stay fit and healthy."

At this stage Melanie and the team at Possibilities need as much feedback on the proposal as possible and they have prepared an online questionnaire – that's where readers of North News come in!

By completing the survey on the link below it will enable Possibilities to gather the views of the local community.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F7PKPJQ>

Possibilities will treat your comments in strict confidence and



Melanie Fyfe of Possibilities

will not attribute any comments to you without seeking your further consent.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers Supporting Events in the Community



POLICE Scotland Youth Volunteers have been helping ng homes out at several community events over the past few months. Regulars at our events will have seen the young volunteers at the Afternoon Safe Tea event with Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. They have also helped at the Song, Shimmy Events and most recently the Chinese New Year celebrations.

One volunteer, Lee Falconer was recently presented with the STV/RBS Real Hero Award as voted for by viewers for his exceptional volunteering in the community for the elderly. He said that the type of volunteering he liked was "anything to do with ng homes."

ng homes Legacy Officer, Clare Bird, is an Adult volunteer with PSYV and also received an award on the evening for her contribution to volunteering in this important programme.

The Police Scotland Youth Volunteers (PSYV) programme aims to strengthen the relationship with the Police and young people, breaking down barriers and promoting positive role models.

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers promotes a practical way for young people to understand policing by supporting the Police in their local area through volunteering. As part of this, young people are given a chance for their voice to be heard and encouraged to promote good citizenship.

The programme is open to all young people aged between 13 – 18 – it gives people an insight into policing in Scotland and inspires individuals to participate



Regeneration Manager Margaret Layden accepted an outstanding contribution award on behalf of ng homes for their support of the PSYV Programme from Louise MacDonald OBE, Chief Executive of Young Scot.

The volunteering opportunities Police Scotland have provided for their youths range from big events like the Commonwealth Games to small local and more important events for example, giving local elderly residents a talk on pedestrian safety whilst addressing their fear of teenagers.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow has also been impressed with the PSYV youths and presented them with awards at a Civic Reception at the City Chambers.

Other awards were presented by Rt Hon Frank Mulholland, Lord Advocate, Assistant Chief Constable Derek Robertson, Chief Superintendent Andy Bates, Andrew Flanagan, Chair of Scottish Police Authority and Louise MacDonald, OBE, Chief Executive of Young Scot who presented ng homes with an award for their Outstanding contribution to the PSYV Programme.



PSYV Maryam Sahibqran and Mark Anderson helping out at one of the many events at Saracen House.

For more information on the work of the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers check out these YouTube videos below:

Lee (PSYV Glasgow)-short video
<http://shows.stv.tv/real-heroes/nominees/1329861-lee/>

Edinburgh Tattoo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLGsBMTj-Zo>

Commonwealth Games
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaZexq8_UjQ

Induction Awards
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVEA-Mb3cEM>



Police Scotland Youth Volunteer Lee Falconer with ng homes residents.



Listening to Older People

Recent reports have shown that Scotland has an increasing ageing population with a projection of the number of over 75's increasing by 85% by 2039 and an estimated increase of 54% for over 65's.

A variety of surveys have shown that half of those that are aged 75 and over live alone, 40% of people over 65 say they that their television or a pet is their only form of company and one in ten older people say that they feel lonely most or all of the time. In Scotland, that means 100,000 people aged 65 or over may experience loneliness or isolation.

In response to this demographic change, ng homes, in partnership with Age Scotland, have recently held two community conversation events, and will hold a number of other similar events in the near future, to explore some of the key issues, challenges and opportunities experienced by an ageing population.

The first of the two events, took place on the 25th January and that was well attended by both community members and local organisations alike. It allowed for some rich discussions and identified some strong key areas and priorities for the ageing population living in the North of Glasgow, most of which supports the findings documented in the Scottish Parliament, Equal Opportunities Committee: Age and Social Isolation (5th report, 2015). Areas such as loneliness and low confidence, not knowing what is going on in the area, loss of services due to financial restrictions, poor transport links and lack of assistance were just some of the areas that were raised as concerns.

The event was interactive, informative and fun, consisting of a mixture presentations from the Good Morning Service, Meal Makers, Age Scotland and ng homes, discussion workshops and 'sing

along' activities. Charlie Murphy of Age Scotland said "It's been very inspiring to see how ng homes has been able to create a space for local older people and staff from a range of key organisations to come together to learn from one another. There has been a good blend of presenting information and exchanging of ideas". There was also an opportunity to hear from a local man, Bob Moir, who has recently become involved in ng homes activities and what it has meant for him. Bob said "We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone- Its been such a pleasure to be asked to be involved in all the events that ng homes put on. It's a great feeling to be part of something as well as to give something back especially when it helps in tackling chronic loneliness. For me, being involved has changed my life."

Promoting a positive image of older people and the valuable contributions they can make to the community through their knowledge and life skills was a key area for the day. Through the discussions, participants had the opportunity to share ideas and possible solutions, promoting a feeling being listened to and a sense of ownership.

The most recent event took place on the 8th March and explored key areas and themes, identified at the 1st event, in more depth and included topics around social inclusion, feeling safe, digital inclusion and issues around transport. Participants were given the opportunity to openly discuss the topics that were most important to them, whilst encouraged to identify possible solutions and ways forward.

The feedback following the first two events has been insightful and a good step in the right direction in making a positive change for older people of North Glasgow. To build on this success and to ensure that local people have their say, ng homes are looking for more local people to come along to have their say at the next event which will be held in early May.

If this is something that you or someone you know would be interested in coming along to or you would like to find out more about what's going on, please contact ng homes Regeneration Manager on 0141 630 4288 or mlyayden@nghomes.net



Help us to improve social landlords' services...

The Scottish Housing Regulator's role is to protect the interests of tenants, homeless people and others who use the housing services of councils, housing associations, co-ops and other social landlords.

The National Panel: what it's for and why it's important

The National Panel is an important way for us to hear about your priorities and the services you receive.

What's involved

You can join if you use social landlord services. As a Panel member we will send surveys asking for your views. Surveys are quick and easy to complete – we are running a survey at the moment that is open to new members. **Every member completing the survey has the chance of one of 4 x £20 prizes.**

To see our current survey (and join)

Sign up online at bit.ly/natpan3

Scan the code with a smartphone

Call Craigforth (who manage the Panel) on 0800 027 2245



New Text Messaging Service Launched

Contacting ng homes has never been easier – as well as the changes we have made to the telephone options menu we have also introduced a new text service for customers.

Customers who have registered their mobile number with ng homes will have received a “welcome” message and will be able to confirm the number we have for them is correct or opt out of receiving further messages from us.

If you have not received a message from us its probably because we do not have a mobile number for you or the number we have for you is out of date.

If we don't have your mobile number, and you would like to communicate with us via text messaging you can update your number by either:

- Emailing your mobile number (along with your name and address) to: csosms@nghomes.net

- Calling us on 0141 560 6000 or 0141 336 1300

Customers with mobile devices will be able to send texts using SMS to:

- request a call from their Housing Officer,
- find out their account balance
- make a rent or account payment.

Lynne Cooper, Assistant Director of Housing Operations said: “The new text service provides an easy way for us to contact our customers and for our customers to contact us and I would urge anyone who wishes to communicate with ng homes via text to save our new text number : **07855 036 036** into their phone.”

Once registered customers can text:

BAL: To get your latest account balance

HOUSING: To contact your housing officer

Other aspects of the new text service to come online in the coming months include reporting repairs and checking on the status of repairs.



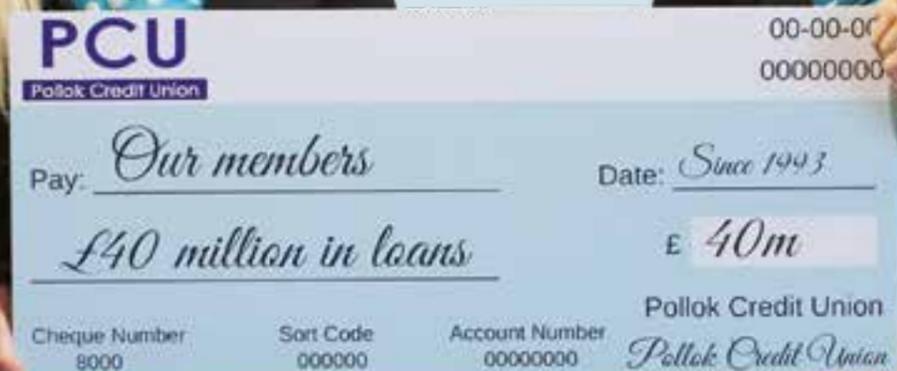
Pollok Credit Union to Celebrate Opening Fifth Branch

Pollok Credit Union are excited to announce that they are about to open their fifth branch, in Maryhill, this spring. The expansion comes based on the high demand for the Credit Union's services, and will be their second branch opening in the last 12 months. Pollok Credit Union currently has over 8000 active members and has watched their member count grow since opening over 22 years ago.

Despite the massive expansion the Credit Union has witnessed since their first branch was opened at Pollok Shopping Centre in 2002, including reaching a total of £40million paid out in loans, Pollok Credit Union is eager to maintain its community values and keep the Credit Union ethos as its central focus. To celebrate the opening of the new Maryhill branch, and last year's opening of a branch in Royston, Pollok Credit Union are planning a launch day for new and existing members.

This will provide a glimpse of the new premises and will also allow the local community to gain insight into the services that the credit union offer, including loans, savings, a budgeting service, online access and more.

For more information, please visit www.pcu.org.uk or call 0141 881 8731.



Meet the Chairperson

ng homes is run by a voluntary Management Board made up of local people who volunteer their time free of charge. As well as the Management Board the association also has an Area Committee and sub-committees also made up of volunteers.

In the first of a new feature in North News we thought readers would like to hear more about our voluntary board and committee members so this first one kicks off with the **Chairperson of ng homes John Fury**.

What was your early life like?

I was born in 1944 and grew up in Royston where I lived in a 2 bedroom tenement with my mum, dad and 8 siblings. I was a War baby, I think my mum was frightened by a German bomber!

Growing up all the boys slept in one room and all the girls slept in the other. I didn't know what it was like to sleep myself until I got married!

I went to school at St Mungo's and I was delighted when they allowed pupils to stay after 4pm to do their homework which meant I had some time alone to read – apart from when I used to read in the toilet at home to get some peace!

How did you first get involved at ng homes?

I took early retirement and was pottering about in my garden when my neighbour asked me to come along to a meeting of Parkhouse Community Council and whilst there I heard there was a need for volunteers to form a steering group in the Balmore area around the time that Glasgow City Council were transferring ownership of Council houses to Glasgow Housing Association.

The fledgling steering group became Balmore Local Housing Organisation (LHO) and members received lots of training and its at this point that ng homes comes in.

ng homes would mentor the new LHO Committee as they were just starting out and I was impressed with how business-like they were.

As a Board member what do you find the most challenging?

I think the hardest thing to do is to keep up to date with everything. As well as operating as a housing association and dealing with allocations and repairs ng homes also has a whole range of activities and events going on across the community.

What's the best feeling you've had as a volunteer board member?

I think the best feeling I've had in recent years is knowing that you've played a part and helped someone or changed their life in some way for the better. I remember meeting a family at their home in Parkhouse and we had made adaptations to help them with a member of their family who was disabled. By carrying out that work to their home we completely changed how the whole family lived on a daily basis.

What do you wish people knew about ng homes?

I wish they knew everything! I know that statistics can bore lots of people but ng homes carried out 21,351 repairs last year – that's a lot of repairs!

Tell us about some of the people you have met through ng homes.

I have met a lot of great people over the years - Board members past and present, some no longer with us who I miss dearly. They are all inspiring.

What's your personal philosophy on what should be done about social housing?

There will always be a need for social housing. It's a basic right for people to have a roof over their heads. Not everyone is working and can afford a mortgage to buy a home so its up to ng homes and other landlords to make sure there are enough houses to go around but we can't do that alone.

What do friends/family say when they find out you volunteer at ng homes?

My friends and family know that I have always been interested in helping people and carrying out voluntary roles. I used to be a Janitor and I was their Shop Steward so they know me, it's the way I am.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

There's a project called Red Road Alive and Kicking which I am involved with. They have a Concert Party and we perform shows, we have performed everywhere in the community and been to the City Chambers and the Scottish Parliament to give performances – life is not always serious and sometimes they even let me sing!

What would you tell someone who is thinking about volunteering?

Do it! You get so much satisfaction out of it. You meet lots of different people. Lots of different opportunities present themselves to you. When you are helping others you are also helping yourself.

How would someone describe you?

I would like to think they would see me as an optimist and someone who always sees the good side in people.

What's your Favourite Movies:

I like anything with a spy theme, I'm a big fan of John Le Carre and I like the cold war movies that Michael Caine did like the Ipccross File and Funeral in Berlin.



What have you always wanted to try?

I've always thought I'd like to write a book – an autobiography, I think it would have plenty of humour in it and cover all the places I've worked and the characters I've met.

Who taught you to ride a bike?

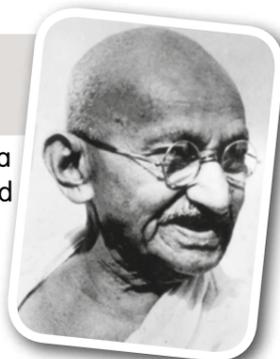
My friend actually taught me to ride a bike – it had no crossbar – it was his sisters!

What was your favourite bedtime story?

With a family our size we didn't really have time for bedtime stories but I was always the one who had the light on still reading when my brothers were trying to get to sleep!

Who do you admire most as a leader?

I would have to say Mahatma Ghandi. He was assassinated in 1948, shortly after leading his people to his life goal of achieving Indian independence.



What food did you used to like but now hate?

Tinned Tuna. I used to eat it in sandwiches when I worked as a Janitor in the Colleges but I can't take it now.

What is the last thing in your life that went according to plan?

Oh that's easy – it has to be when I made dinner last night for me and Ellen my partner.

What phrase or saying do you think makes no sense?

It has to be C'moan get aff! This was something the Glasgow Clippies used to say to people when they wanted them to get off the tram cars that used to operate in Glasgow.

African Challenge Scotland Celebrate International Women's Day

African Challenge Scotland hosted an International Women's Day Conference last month at Saracen House in Possilpark with guest speakers Dr Ima Jackson, Lecturer at the School of Health and Life Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University, Patricia Ferguson MSP for Maryhill and Springburn and Anne McLaughlin MP for North East Glasgow and Chaired by Vanessa Fletcher from African Challenge Scotland. The theme was "Pledge for Parity"

International Women's Day has been celebrated across the world since the early 1900's. Originally, its aim was to provide a forum for women to campaign for equality and women's rights. Over time, it has evolved and now in March each year, thousands of events are held throughout the world to recognise the progress that has been made, to inspire women and to celebrate their achievements.

The area of the discussion was focussed on the gender gap in Education, Health, Economic Participation, Political Empowerment and Earning Potential. The event was attended by women, men and children from the community and supported by ng homes, Saheliya and Police Scotland.

Magloire Sanou, Project Coordinator of African Challenge Scotland said: "Our specific aim in hosting this event was to raise the profile of issues that are central to career development for female colleagues at both a local and national level and particularly for women from a Black and ethnic minorities background."

Housing Manager for ng homes Sharon Hazlett welcomed everyone to the event and said:

At ng homes we have a healthy quota of women on our staff team - almost 65% in fact and we provide housing and other important services to many tenants from different ethnic backgrounds and we want to encourage more people to become customers of ours in the future. We were delighted to partner with African Challenge Scotland and host this event as part of their International Women's Day celebrations."

Anne McLaughlin MP for North East Glasgow said: "International Women's Day gives us a focus where we can look at where we are in terms of women having equal respect and opportunities to men. I feel strongly that the contribution of women has been hugely under reported in history but nowhere near as under reported as that of

black women. So I was delighted to be able to highlight the work of Mary Seacole the Jamaican Scots nurse whose voluntary work looking after injured soldiers in The Crimean War is almost never talked about. The main difference between her and Florence Nightingale is simply skin colour. So whilst we are celebrating women, I want to be sure it's ALL women and I was very grateful to African Challenge Scotland for the opportunity to be able to say that."

Patricia Ferguson MSP for Glasgow Maryhill & Springburn said: "Thank you to African Challenge Scotland for organising the 'Pledge for Parity' event as part of the celebration of International Women's Day. It was really encouraging to see so many women - and men discussing and debating issues around support for women in education, childcare and politics. I found the exchange of ideas exhilarating and I hope that more women will become involved in their communities as a result."

Dr Ima Jackson, Lecturer School of Health and Life Sciences, Caledonian University, said: "Thank you for enabling me to participate in the international women's day event- it was an interesting moment and it was great to hear from African and other women from the minorities communities, articulate their perspectives of the issues which so clearly impact on their lives in Scotland. Bringing up children, in particular female children in a largely "white" society raises concerns for families and demands particular skills. We must continue to speak of, support and encourage diverse perspectives to be heard and included whilst continuing to aim for gender equality - 50/50 by 2030 is the focus - it is important to note that many of the young children at the event, playing and enjoying the delicious food will just be reaching adulthood in 2030 - we must make sure there future is more Gender equal- so yes let's Step it up!."

Edem A said: "I enjoy the idea of the international women day event brought by African Challenge Scotland. That remind me many positive thing back home. I was so excited to participate and to meet others women and also to have my issues addressed by the speakers. As a single mum of three, I will like to have opportunity to attend course and participate in more educational activities."

Cecile Mondeke said: "The international women day conference initiative was very good. I like it. It was very positive and inspiring to listen to all the participant and speakers. As a result from my ethnic minorities background I fill more confident now to engage more in the communities where I am."

Mary Kelassa said: "As a youth I will like to see more of this type of event in our community to inspire many young girls like me to be able to feel confident and achieve higher in the future."

For more information:
African Challenge Scotland
151 Balgrayhill Road
Glasgow G21 3AN
Scotland
United Kingdom (UK)
Phone: ACS Team: +44 744 8053753
Email: africanchallengescotland@yahoo.co.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 9th April 2016

Knife Crime and Drugs Workshop (Police Scotland)
 Black and Ethnic Minorities children and young people.

Venue: Vulcan Street Time: 12.30pm-1.30pm

Saturday 7th May 2016

Personal Safety and Student safety Workshop (Police Scotland)
 Black and Ethnic Minorities children and young people

Venue: Vulcan Street Time: 12.30pm-1.30pm

Saturday 18th June 2016

Hate crime and Online safety Workshop (Police Scotland)
 Black and Ethnic Minorities children and young people

Venue: Vulcan Street Time: 12.30pm-1.30pm



Sharon Hazlett, Neighbourhood Manager at ng homes, Patricia Ferguson MSP for Maryhill and Springburn, Anne McLaughlin, MP for Glasgow North East and Dr Ima Jackson, Lecturer at the School of Health and Life Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University join in the celebrations.

ng homes wins top environmental award



Director of Regeneration John Devine, Board Member Jim Berrington, Regeneration Manager Margaret Layden, Chairperson John Fury and CEO Robert Tamburrini were delighted to receive the Programme of the Year award.

ng homes were presented with a prestigious Local Environmental Quality Award in recognition of their efforts to improve the environment. The Programme of the Year 2016 award was presented to ng homes group by Keep Scotland Beautiful for the success of their work in developing initiatives and strategies to provide cleaner neighbourhoods.

The association was also presented with an award as Finalist for **Community Participation 2016** in recognition of a number of creative environmental programmes working alongside members of the community and partners.

At Scotland's Local Environmental Quality Conference held in Glasgow there was a launch of a report highlighting that Scotland's local environmental quality is in decline together with a 'call to action' for organisations, partners and community to work together to address this issue and identify and work towards sustainable solutions.

ng homes group have demonstrated commitment to local environmental quality in a variety of ways including the work of ng2 operatives in maintaining the cleaning and clearing of areas within its housing stock. Work

“This is for the people in the communities we work with”

includes stair cleaning, litter picking, jet washing and bulk uplifts across the association's areas.

ng homes staff, concierge, volunteers and members of the community have jointly participated in 'community clean ups' and 'litter picking', designed and delivered 'dog fouling' campaign with local schools, have worked Keep Scotland Beautiful and Clean Glasgow on the programme to impact positively on the environment.

Last year we conducted a street audit on local environmental quality in Possilpark and are in the process of embarking on a similar audit for Springburn in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful. We will use the results to work closely

with partners and the community on services and interventions to raise the profile of the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said "Poor local environmental quality can have a significant impact upon health and wellbeing in communities...programmes undertaken by the LEQ network help to improve local places for people and create community cohesion".

On accepting the award from Keep Scotland Beautiful, John Fury, Chair of ng homes said: "It's heartwarming to see so many people working hard to improve the environmental quality of our communities. We're really privileged to be recognised for the work we do for People and Places. This is for the people in the communities we work with".

ng homes will continue to work closely on community projects relating to clean neighbourhoods. If you would like to participate in any of our community programmes please contact Margaret Layden on 0141 630 4288, Extension: 1418.

Volunteers Celebrated at Tigers Den



Volunteers celebrated: Back Row: Billy Aird, Maria Handley, Bill Rossine (Vice Chairperson of ng homes), Caroline Allison
Front Row: Betty McPherson, Isobel Davies and Michelle Burt

ng homes celebrates its valuable volunteers who regularly give up their own precious time to help strengthen their community and those who live in it.

We have a number of volunteers who help out in a number of ways including setting up events such as the Community Networking Breakfast, meeting and greeting at events such as Song Shimmy and Sausage Roll, putting together food parcels for tenants and providing a sing along at various events. Each Volunteer is unique in their own way and each gain something different from volunteering.

Pictured opposite are some of our regular volunteers who received a certificate for their efforts. The certificates were awarded by Vice Chair of the ng homes Board, Bill Rossine. "It was a privilege to present certificates to our volunteers who really are exceptional and we couldn't do half as much without their help and support, they are true champions of their community."

Volunteering has been proven to improve health and wellbeing and give individuals a sense of accomplishment.

Fun Facts about Volunteering

- In 2012 Scotland's residents contributed 162 MILLION hours to volunteering which was worth 2.6 BILLION pounds to the economy!
- This equated to 16 MILLION hours being contributed in Glasgow which equalled the amazing sum of 246.5 MILLION pounds to Glasgow's economy!
- Within ng homes, just in the months of January and February 2016, there has

been 90 hours given to volunteering which is equivalent to 700 pounds based on Glasgow Living Wage.

- This statistic demonstrates how important our volunteers are and proves that we couldn't provide as good as service as we do without them.
- The volunteer programme is varied and open to all – if you have a few hours a month to spare then please get in touch.

**Margaret Layden,
Regeneration Manager
0141 560 6000
mycommunity@nghomes.net**

**To find out more about
Tigers Den please contact
Maureen on 0141 336 1222**

Movie Screenings bring cultures together in North Glasgow



Friendship at African Film Night

ng homes recently held Cultural Movie workshops for members of the Chinese, African and Scottish community as part of our community initiatives to integrate cultures within North Glasgow.

Over the last month 3 screenings have been held at the Bob Allan Conference Centre in Saracen House, Possilpark with post movie discussions.

As well as raising awareness of cultural topics, the movie workshops had an intergenerational theme and provided the opportunity for people of different generations in the community to discuss their understanding of those issues that differ between generations and those which remain similar.

The first film chosen was a 1950's film, "The Great Devotion". Produced in Hong Kong it depicted the story, in Cantonese, of how parents in poverty struggled to raise their children in a living situation without NHS, free education, and Council housing. ng homes Cultural Officer, Michael Kam, and Glasgow University Intern, Jack leong carried out spontaneous interpreting to Scottish spectators.

The movie had a profound effect on those attending. One Chinese participant said "An amazing event! Our children were impressed by the story of the movie and it inspired them to be creative and try new ways of doing things as well as the old ways. I love the idea of having more events like this for the community and we appreciate the great effort from the ng homes staff."

The movie workshop programme was

organised as part of a Glasgow University Internship being undertaken by student Jack leong who is currently undertaking study for BA Community Development. Jack said "I am very pleased with the success of these workshops. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I have learned so much through working with the Chinese community in North Glasgow and with ng homes' Regeneration Team".

ng Homes Chinese Cultural Officer Michael Kam said "It's great that so many people from the Chinese community regularly come to join in these sessions, and also people from other cultures are joining in with our Chinese activities. Real friendships are being made across cultures and when people attend one of our activities they are often already talking positively about one of our other activities! It is a pleasure and an honour to be part of something which is contributing to different cultures being part of our community."

Due to the success of the movie events and feedback from focus groups we worked with 'Africa in Motion', an organisation who promote and celebrate African films in Scotland to showcase a viewing at Saracen House.

ng homes introduced a film screening relating to African Culture. The aim was primarily to bring people of various cultures together for recreation and entertainment, but also to educate and showcase art and culture from Africa.

The audience of around 50 people were welcomed by ng homes Chairperson, John Fury, before settling down to watch the 40 minute film

'The Road We Travel' - a film about a photographer, James Gardner, who, whilst on a world-wide trip visits Africa for the first time. Various circumstances lead him to meet a local taxi driver called Moses Musumba from Uganda, and through an unlikely friendship both men realise that despite differences in culture, religion and race, meeting a particular person (either by fate or coincidence) can change your life for the better.

One African participant said "This was a good opportunity to think and talk about how we treat each other as people, I feel there is a message to everyone to feel more open, talk to people... look what you can do when you help somebody, not everyone has to accept the hand of friendship but it's good to offer it in a safe and understanding way".

Another commented on the film saying; "Not once was the colour of anyone's skin referred to, and they were calling each other brother. This happens a lot in Africa and would be good if there was more of that here as it is a sign of humanity together - people are people, even though we can be different no one is better or worse than another"

Samuel Akintula, African Cultural Officer with ng homes said "There was a really good atmosphere of friendship and understanding and some excellent points of view discussed. People really enjoyed themselves and as an African myself I was very grateful for so many different people coming along and taking away such positive messages from the event"

The activities are organised as part of the Build Bridge Bond project, funded through the Scottish Government People and Communities fund and seeks to raise awareness and celebrate the diverse cultures and work across generations in North Glasgow.

ng homes Chairperson, John Fury, said: "We want to make North Glasgow a great place to live and it was great to bring people from different cultures together in a safe and welcoming environment to watch the films as it helps to build friendships and we hope to plan further events like these in the coming months."

If you would like to become involved please contact Margaret Layden on 0141 560 6000 or e-mail@ mycommunity@nghomes.net

Glasgow Caledonian University student Jack leong has been organising the movie workshops.



The audience for African movie: The Road We Travel.



African Multicultural Night is a huge success

ng homes brought the tastes and sounds of Africa to Possilpark with an 'African Multicultural Night' at the Keppoch school campus.

Building on the success of the previous cultural events this was another fantastic night to celebrate the vibrant and diverse community of North Glasgow with musical culture from the African continent, and with a flavour of China and Scotland too!

Entertainment came from Afrobeat DJ Mnet, African performance group Ayawara, African drumming group Africadabra, and our very own Possilpark African Drumming Group which newly formed in September 2015.

There was a display of Chinese Han dynasty costume dress from members of the Confederation of Fujian Association in Scotland UK who displayed traditional walking to Chinese music and another stirring performance from the brilliant Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Juvenile Pipe Band. There was also a bonus when a group of Somali women requested to play some contemporary music from their country and went on to show the packed hall how to dance and party Somali style!

Food was provided by Cuisine

Africana and Fareshare, with many commenting on the variety and quality which gave plenty of fuel for dancing to the African beats throughout the evening.

ng homes vice-chair Bill Rossine said "What a happy and enjoyable event, a mix of cultures making it a great night. A credit to the cultures of Africa, China, Scotland and others - and all in North Glasgow!"

President of North Glasgow-based African Challenge Scotland, Ronier Deumeni, gave the opening remarks and later said "There are many challenges facing Africans in Scotland, events like tonight help recognise those challenges along with our desire and ambitions of improving our circumstances, expressing ourselves and making a big contribution to the community. Tonight we are celebrating African cultural activities along with so many other cultures integrated in one night and one community, and this is very important."

Pipe Major Ollie Brownlie of the SFRS Juvenile Pipe Band told us "It's so important to show the links between the African traditions and the Scottish traditions, to bridge the two and show that we are all citizens of Glasgow of many cultures and nationalities"

Local resident Afia Kyeiwaa told us: "Tonight is very nice, it's good to see such an event going on in the community and my family are happy to be part of it", and Ummulkhair Ado said; "The event was good and we really enjoyed it My kids and I were very happy because I feel like I am in my own country"

Another local resident, Michelle Burt, said: "Coming along to this event has made me proud to be part of a community that really comes together and shares their experiences."



Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Junior Pipe Band



A family atmosphere



Everyone enjoyed the evening.



Some people wore national costumes



African music had people on their feet



People from different cultures enjoyed the African Multicultural evening

Robert enjoying his new job



Jobs & Business Glasgow

Robert, a local ng homes tenant, was out of work and worried about providing for his children. He popped into his local Jobs & Business Glasgow (JBG) office in Possilpark for support to secure a job.

Registering with JBG, he met with a friendly adviser who helped him to improve his CV and learn the ways to market his skills and work experience to employers. Robert had worked in a number of roles, warehousing, cleaning, and security, and was keen to get back to work. Most recently he had volunteered as a van assistant and expressed how much he had really enjoyed working in a role that was outdoors.

Working closely with his JBG adviser he completed an application form for an environmental operative job, highlighting his transferrable skills which would be good for the role, including his gardening interests, and desire to work outdoors. Robert was delighted to hear he had successfully secured the role, part-funded by JBG.

A few months in and Robert is really enjoying his new job. Making an income has given his confidence a real



boost and he's delighted he now has the ability to treat his kids in the way he always wanted.

Jobs & Business Glasgow provides free support to Glasgow residents who are out of work. Qualified advisers help to boost confidence, create and develop CVs, provide interview tips, and support with job searching. Jobs & Business Glasgow also provides access to a range of jobs and training opportunities.

We have offices based across the City including Springburn and Possilpark, for more information check: www.jbg.org.uk

Sudoku answers

5	1	8	9	6	2	3	4	7
6	7	4	1	3	5	9	8	2
3	2	9	4	7	8	5	1	6
8	4	2	6	5	3	7	9	1
7	5	3	8	1	9	2	6	4
9	6	1	7	2	4	8	3	5
1	3	6	5	8	7	4	2	9
4	8	5	2	9	6	1	7	3
2	9	7	3	4	1	6	5	8

8	5	9	7	1	6	4	2	3
6	4	3	2	8	5	7	1	9
7	1	2	4	9	3	8	6	5
4	7	1	8	6	9	5	3	2
9	2	6	5	3	7	1	8	4
5	3	8	1	2	4	9	7	6
2	8	4	3	5	1	6	9	7
3	9	7	6	4	8	2	5	1
1	6	5	9	7	2	3	4	8

ng homes Regeneration Activities and Events

Event	Venue	Time	Contact
Song, Shimmy, Sausage Roll	Saracen House	Friday 29 th April 1pm – 4 pm	Claire Alexander calexander@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Song, Shimmy, Sausage Roll	Saracen House	Friday 20 th May 1pm – 4 pm	Claire Alexander calexander@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Song, Shimmy and Sausage roll	Saracen House	Friday 24 th June 1pm – 4 pm	Claire Alexander calexander@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Home Safety Fire event	Midton Street Fire Station	Tuesday 5 th April 1pm – 3 pm	Fiona Herriot fherriot@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Community Event	Eastfield Park (back park) Springburn	Wednesdays 13 th April 12pm – 3 pm	Margaret Layden mlayden@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Chancers group	Possilpoint Community Centre, 130 Denmark Street, G22 5LQ	Wednesdays 11am – 2.30pm	Gillian Halliday ghalliday@ng2works.com 0141 560 6000
Open Mic night	Possilpoint	Wednesday 20 th April	Alistair Mitchell amitchell@mghomes.net 0141 560 6000
Inner Circle Mens Group	Possilpoint Community Centre, 130 Denmark Street, G22 5LQ	Thursdays 11.30am – 2.30pm	Gillian Halliday ghalliday@ng2works.com 0141 560 6000
Little Rascals Parent and Toddler Group	Possilpoint Community Centre, 130 Denmark Street, G22 5LQ	Mondays and Thursdays 9.30 – 11.30 am	Gillian Halliday ghalliday@ng2works.com 0141 560 6000
Friday Night Youth Club 5- 12 years	Springburn Sports Centre, Kay Street, G21 1JY	Fridays 4pm – 6 pm	Robert Docherty rdocherty@ng2works.net 0141 560 6000
Oriental Gym Exercise	Tron St Mary's Church, 128 Red Road Balornock, GLASGOW G21 4PJ	Fridays 10am – 12noon	Michael Kam mkam@nghomes.net 0141 560 6000

In addition to these events, there will be a variety of community activities including football and sporting events carried out within local community venues, local schools and after schools.

For further information see Robert Docherty on rdocherty@nghomes.net or 0141 560 6000

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Clare Bird on cbird@nghomes.net or 0141 560 6000.

Further events are currently being organised and will include: Multicultural events, Cook Safe programme in partnership with Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, events and activities for 50 plus age group and much more. Details will be updated within ng homes housing offices, concierge stations and local media.

Please also continue to check our website for updates on: www.nghomes.net

 [ngsportslegacy](https://www.facebook.com/ngsportslegacy)

If you would like to be kept informed of events and activities please contact info@nghomes.net with your e-mail address and telephone number and a member of staff will respond.



Warm Hearts in Possilpark

Gillian Russell of The Scottish Government's Building Safer Communities (BSC) has been writing in the BSC Blog about some of the programmes run by ng homes recently and we thought Gillian's views would be of interest to North News readers. Here she talks about her visit to the monthly Community Networking Breakfast and other events held in the last few months.

On 15 January, I attended my first Community Networking Breakfast in Possilpark run by NG Homes. These networking events take place monthly and are a fantastic opportunity for people who work and live in the community to come together to share information about the excellent work taking place locally to strengthen the community and build networks to help make Possilpark the best possible place to live.

At this month's event, we heard about some of the challenges which face the community, including issues with the physical environment. For example, where are the safe places for children to play? What facilities exist for holding community events? A clear aspiration of those within the community is to make Possilpark an appealing place to live and somewhere that others want to visit.

Presentations included an inspirational input about 'Open Gates', a charity which works to restore the lives of those in the community who are disadvantaged, prisoners and ex-offenders through education, vocational training and work experience. This particularly highlighted that community development isn't all about money and that, in fact, it's possible to make meaningful change through drawing on the skills and experience of the people who make up the community.

I also had a very interesting conversation with Evelyn Gibson, Head Teacher at Saracen Primary about her ambition for all kids at the school to be able to swim and ride a bike before finishing their primary education.



The monthly Community Networking Breakfast is always well attended

A number of events will be taking place over the next few weeks to celebrate the Chinese New Year. My colleagues and I were delighted to receive invitations. On 28 January, The Confederation of Fujian Association in Scotland UK and Kut-O Chinese Association of Europe will welcome about 300 elderly residents from across the area to a celebratory meal at the See Woo restaurant. One

of my colleagues will be going along to join in the celebrations.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and am very much looking forward to much more engagement with this welcoming and inspiring community.

Gillian Russell
Director of Safer Communities
Scottish Government

Life is a lot easier now for Susan

LAST year ng homes tenant Susan Prentice's life changed dramatically when she suffered a stroke which made the left side of her body feel like a dead weight and it became harder to do things she took for granted like getting in and out of the bath.

Now on the road to recovery and not wanting to move from the home she's lived in for the past 13 years Susan contacted ng homes to see if there was anything we could do to help.

After receiving advice from her Housing Officer Liz McMillan, Susan asked her Doctor to refer her to an Occupational Therapist (OT) to assess her needs. The OT assessment looks at how a person copes with day-to-day living, and the social work department will then recommend help or equipment that might make life easier for the tenant to live in their home.

In Susan's case the OT recommended the installation of a wet room to make it easier, safer and more accessible for her to bathe independently.

ng homes have now carried out some major changes to give her full access to her bathroom. The work carried out on Susan's home included converting her bathroom into a wet room with new wet floor and a wet wall, a new shower which can be activated via an app on Susan's mobile if she so chooses and disabled access shower doors. In addition hand rails were also fitted on the staircases in the property.

Susan said: "I am absolutely delighted with my new wet room, it means I can go for a shower whenever I like without having to ask someone to help me in or out."

She continued: "As well as the wet room ng homes also installed hand rails on my stairs too so I feel much safer living in my house."

Housing Officer Liz McMillan said: "The work carried out means that Susan can continue to live in her home as she recovers from her illness and we were delighted to be able to help."



How to get in touch with us:

email: info@nghomes.net
 web: www.nghomes.net
 media centre: <http://mediacentre.nghomes.net>
 twitter: [@ng_homes](https://twitter.com/ng_homes)
 facebook: [ngsportslegacy](https://www.facebook.com/ngsportslegacy)

springburn office

Ned Donaldson House,
 50 Reidhouse Street,
 Springburn, Glasgow G21 4LS
Tel: 0141 560 6000

possilpark office

Saracen House,
 139 Saracen Street,
 Possilpark, Glasgow G22 5AZ
Tel: 0141 336 1300